

**From:** Jeremy Bell  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/18/02 10:31am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

This settlement solves absolutely nothing. How much of a deterrent is this settlement really going to be? Microsoft, even now with the acquisition of the SGI OpenGL patents, is positioning themselves to dominate the 3d graphics industry, suppressing innovation from 3D card makers by denying them licenses and forcing a standard solely defined by Microsoft, rather than the panel of industry leaders that up until now have encouraged innovation and have provided an open environment to provide 3d graphics implementations on multiple platforms. Microsoft now has the power to eliminate OpenGL in favor of it's proprietary DirectX framework. This is just ONE example of behavior that will continue at Microsoft unless a more encompassing settlement is reached, or unless the settlement is withdrawn in favor of a Final Judgement that is in the interests of the United States. We must prevent this type of behavior from sprouting up again, not just in Microsoft, but in any future corporation. The proposed settlement is like telling companies that it is fine to violate the Antitrust laws because the penalties aren't as bad as the benefits. I for one am deeply afraid of an environment that would allow companies to get away with this kind of activity without severe penalties as defined by law.

Thank you for your time,

Jeremy E. Bell  
22209 H. Dr North  
Marshall, MI 49068